



# Gardens of Italy: The Italian Lakes, the Piedmont, Tuscany, Umbria & Rome

30 APR – 22 MAY 2018

Code: 21807

Tour Leaders **Sabrina Hahn, David Henderson**

Physical Ratings 

Enjoy the famous gardens of northern and central Italy, including private masterpieces by Paolo Pejrone, Russell Page, Paolo Portoghesi and Pearson & Barfoot.

## Overview

### Tour Highlights

- Join [Sabrina Hahn](#), horticulturalist, garden designer and expert gardening commentator on ABC 720 Perth, to tour the gardens of five distinct regions of Italy. Sabrina will be accompanied by award-winning artist [David Henderson](#), who brings a profound knowledge of European art to ASA tours.
- Enjoy the magic of northern lakeside and island gardens including Villa Carlotta, Villa del Balbianello, Isola Bella and Isola Madre, as well as the renowned botanical gardens of Villa Taranto.
- Meet [Paolo Pejrone](#), student of Russell Page and currently Italy's leading garden designer. With him, view his own garden, 'Bramafam'.
- View Paolo Pejrone's work during a private visit to the estate of the Peyrani family.
- See the work of Russell Page with an exclusive visit to the private gardens of [Villa Silvio Pellico](#).
- Visit intimate urban gardens in Florence and Fiesole including [Le Balze](#), designed by Cecil Pinsent; Villa di Maiano (featured in James Ivory's film *A Room with a View*); and the Giardini Corsini al Prato.
- Ramble through the historical centres of lovely old cities like Turin, Lucca, Siena, Florence and Perugia, and encounter masterpieces of Italian art in major churches and museums.
- Gaze out onto the Mediterranean from the spectacularly situated Abbey of La Cervera.
- Enjoy delicious meals in the verdant surrounds of a number of private Tuscan and Umbrian villas including Villa di Geggiano and Villa Aureli; and at Ristorante Sibilla in Tivoli.
- Explore the famous garden at [Villa Gamberaia](#), Settignano, described by Edith Wharton in her book *Italian Villas and Their Gardens* (1904).
- Marvel at the meeting of culture and nature during an exclusive visit to [Paolo Portoghesi's stunning gardens at Calcata](#).
- Appreciate historic masterpieces like Villa Lante, Villa d'Este, Tivoli, and the Giardini di Ninfa.
- Take a private tour of the gardens of [Palazzo Patrizi](#) and delight in its variety of roses.
- Visit the gardens of [Torrecchia Vecchia](#) with designs by [Dan Pearson](#) and [Stuart Barfoot](#), considered one of Italy's most beautiful private gardens.
- Experience fine dining overlooking the sparkling Mediterranean at [The Cesar Restaurant](#), located within the opulent mansion of the late J. Paul Getty.

### Testimonials

*One marvels at the magic of Italy's northern lakes, island gardens, hillside villages, medieval cities, galleries and churches, but to also experience so many private gardens, villas and castles, often with their delicious lunches, was an unsurpassed experience.* Colin, VIC.

*A brilliantly organized tour and professional tour leaders meant the Italian Gardens Tour was unforgettable.* Liz, NZ.

*Congratulations ASA on your expert organization of 'Gardens of Italy' .... This for me is an experience to treasure.* Robin, NZ.

### 23-day Cultural Garden Tour of Italy

Overnight Moltrasio (2 nights) • Stresa (2 nights) • Turin (4 nights) • Lucca (2 nights) • Florence (4 nights) • Siena (2 nights) • Perugia (1 night) • Viterbo (1 night) • Rome (4 nights)

## Leaders



### Sabrina Hahn

ABC radio presenter & specialist in Australian and Mediterranean garden design.

Sabrina first joined ASA in 2008 and has since led numerous garden tours for ASA to Italy, France and Spain. Sabrina has a great passion for plants, gardens and their place in the greater landscape. She explores the relationship between landscape and people's sense of belonging. Sabrina's love of travel to other Mediterranean climates allows her to share her knowledge of gardening in Western Australia with fellow gardening enthusiasts and translate its place in the Australian landscape. Her plant knowledge has been passed down from 3 generations of obsessive gardeners, leaving her in little doubt of what to study as a career path.

Sabrina started her studies in Horticulture at TAFE, graduated to studying Applied Science and later Social Science. Sabrina has been the ABC gardening talkback expert in Western Australia since 1985, when she began her career in Kalgoorlie. Sabrina also writes a weekly column in the West Australian newspaper on all things green. Her aim is to make gardening an entertaining pastime and educate listeners in the importance of creating biodiversity in their own backyards. She believes gardeners have a role to play in becoming caretakers of sustainable landscapes that allows other species to thrive. Sabrina can be heard on ABC Saturday mornings on 720 from 9-10am and on all local ABC stations during the graveyard shift with Trevor Chappel at 1.30am on Tuesday mornings.



### David Henderson

Award winning artist & Royal Academy graduate who paints half the year in Italy, David brings an artist's eye and a profound knowledge of European art to ASA tours.

After initial studies in architecture in Brisbane, David enrolled in a course in painting at London's Royal Academy Schools, graduating in 1985. The Royal Academy awarded him a prize for painting, and he was twice selected for their annual summer exhibition. David has held many solo exhibitions of his work in Brisbane, Melbourne and London and has been the recipient of several awards and commendations. Until recently, David taught art part-time at various institutions; for many years, he lectured and ran courses in the history of art and design at QUT. David now paints full-time and divides his year between Australia and Italy. He believes Italy to be unique in its concentration of artistic treasures, architectural splendour and

beauty of light and landscape.

Since joining ASA Cultural Tours in 1995, David has lectured on or led over 40 tours to a variety of destinations for ASA. He is an enthusiastic advocate of ASA's philosophy of travel, and believes that cultural tourism should not mean that cities, landscapes or objects become mere illustrations to a specialised text, but rather themselves be 'read' from a multiplicity of contexts and engaged with all the senses. He brings a trained artist's eye to an analysis of painting, sculpture and architecture and takes great pleasure in sharing his encounters with some of world culture's most exciting moments with others.

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Natural Landscapes & Gardens of the Channel Islands: Jersey, Guernsey, Herm, Burhou & Sark  
25 MAY – 7 JUN 2018

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25 MAY – 14 JUN 2018



## Itinerary

The following itinerary describes a range of gardens, villas and palaces which we plan to visit. Many are accessible to the public, but others require special permission which may only be confirmed closer to the tour's departure. The daily activities described in this itinerary may change or be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate alterations in opening hours, flight schedules and confirmation of private visits. Participants will receive a final itinerary together with their tour documents prior to departure. The tour includes breakfast daily, lunches & evening meals indicated in the detailed itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch and D=evening meal.

### Moltrasio - 2 nights

Day 1: Monday 30 April, Arrive Milan – Transfer to Moltrasio

- Welcome Meeting & Refreshments on arrival at hotel
- Como: Introductory walking tour and time at leisure
- Light (2-course) Dinner, La Cascata restaurant

The ASA 'designated' flight is scheduled to arrive at Milan's Malpensa airport in the morning of 30 April. Those arriving on this flight will be transferred by private coach to Moltrasio. If you are travelling independently, you should meet the group at the [Grand Hotel Imperiale](#). Private transfers from the airport to the hotel can be arranged for those arriving independently; please contact ASA for further information.

Grand Hotel Imperiale is situated on the shores of Lake Como, with panoramic views of the Grigne Mountains. At the hotel, there will be a Welcome Meeting, with light refreshments served. We then embark on an excursion to Como by public ferry. In Como, there will be an introductory walking tour, followed by time at leisure. We return to our Moltrasio hotel to complete the check-in process at around 3.00pm. The group will meet again in the evening for a light dinner at the hotel's La Cascata restaurant. (Overnight Moltrasio) D

## Day 2: Tuesday 1 May, Moltrasio – Tremezzo – Bellagio – Moltrasio

- Villa Carlotta, Tremezzo
- Villa Melzi, Bellagio (optional)
- Villa del Balbianello, Bellagio
- Welcome Dinner, Imperialino restaurant

This morning we cruise across Lake Como to 18th-century Villa Carlotta, a garden with a huge botanical collection and a traditional Italian formal design, unlike most lake gardens that were heavily influenced by the more fluid layouts of English landscape gardening; it thus has a wide variety of architectural features – parterres, stairways, ponds, fountains, and so on. In April and May Villa Carlotta offers a sea of multi-coloured azaleas shaped in high, rounded cushions alongside the garden paths.

During the lunch break there will be some time at leisure to visit Villa Melzi (optional).

This afternoon we visit Villa del Balbianello, an exquisite villa set in woods of pine, soaring cypress and oak with pollarded plane trees and manicured lawns and flowerbeds. Facing the promontory of Serbelloni, from the Lavedo point it boasts unparalleled views down the three branches of the lake. The first villa was built in 1540, but was later moved to a new site inland to protect it from flooding. Cardinal Durini erected a casino with a loggia in 1790, open to the sun and breezes; today it is trellised with *Ficus pumila* (creeping fig) and flanked by a library and music room.

This evening we meet in the hotel's Imperialino restaurant for our Welcome Dinner. (Overnight Moltrasio) BD

## Stresa - 2 nights

### Day 3: Wednesday 2 May, Moltrasio – Bisuschio – Casalzuigno – Stresa

- Villa Cicogna Mozzoni, Bisuschio
- Villa Della Porta Bozzolo, Casalzuigno

We depart Moltrasio to visit Villa Cicogna Mozzoni, located on a steep hillside in the village of Bisuschio. Its garden looks out upon sweeping views, with a glimpse of Lake Lugano. Founded in the 15th century, the villa took its present form in the 16th century. The Cicogna family, who inherited it in 1580, still owns this lovely villa. The formal gardens rise on 7 narrow terraces and adjacent to them is a small sunken garden with formal box parterres and patches of lawn. We tour the villa residence, which houses a fine antique collection. Above the villa is a great terrace with Renaissance grottoes offering shade in summer, and a magnificent water stair. Flowing water was an essential feature of Italian formal gardens, offering a cooling spectacle and a lively, burbling sound.

After lunchtime at leisure we visit Villa Della Porta Bozzolo, which is unusual for Lombardy because its measured stately design is laid out upon a steep slope. Parterres, terraces with stone balustrades and grand stairways flanking fountains rise to an octagonal clearing, or theatre, surrounded by a thick ring of cypresses and woods. The perspective rises further to the villa, set to one side in order not to interrupt the silvan view. We continue to our hotel located on the shores of Lake Maggiore. (Overnight Stresa) B

### Day 4: Thursday 3 May, Stresa – Lake Maggiore – Lake Orta – Stresa

- Isola Bella, Lake Maggiore

- Isola Madre, Lake Maggiore
- Orta San Giulio & Isola San Giulio, Lake Orta

We take the ferry across Lake Maggiore to Count Carlo Borromeo's Isola Bella (1632), one of Italy's most extraordinary Baroque gardens. Located on an island off Stresa, it appears to float like a palatial barge, with 10 terraces rising like a ship's prow from the reflecting waters. It shares the island with the Borromeo palace and its adjacent village.

We also visit Isola Madre, with semi-tropical plantings amongst which white peacocks roam. In 1845, Flaubert wrote, "Isola Madre is the most sensual place that I have ever seen in the world". It has a fine swamp cypress, citrus fruit trees, crape myrtle, hibiscus, leptospermum and acacias. The landscape woods have groves of native trees – aromatic cypress, bay and pine – interplanted with camphor, pepper trees and styrax. Its pathways are lined with magnolias, camellias, rhododendrons and azaleas.

This afternoon we visit Lake Orta, to the west of Lake Maggiore, a tiny jewel surrounded by hills and mountains acting as a great natural theatre enveloping local towns and villages. The most beautiful of these is Orta San Giulio, whose town hall has a frescoed façade. Its narrow streets are lined with Rococo houses. We take a ferry to Isola San Giulio to visit the 12th-century Romanesque church whose pulpit is one of the outstanding masterpieces of medieval sculpture in northern Italy. (Overnight Stresa) B

### Turin - 4 nights

Day 5: Friday 4 May, Stresa – Verbania – Agliè – Turin

- Botanical Gardens of Villa Taranto
- Castle of Agliè

This morning we check out of our Stresa hotel and make the short journey to the botanical gardens of Villa Taranto, which were created by Scotsman, Captain Neil McEachern, in the 1930s. Overlooking Lake Maggiore, these world-renowned gardens are home to an astonishing variety of botanical specimens from all corners of the world, some of them particularly rare. Together, we shall explore the delights of Villa Taranto: the Terrace gardens with their coloured flowerbeds and waterplays; the herbarium, with its display of fauna from the United Kingdom; the Curiosity Border of unusual plants; the pool of *Victoria amazonica*, the giant Amazon waterlily; and the Valletta, Captain McEachern's secret valley of paulownias, *Caesalpinia pulcherrima*, and a rare example of *Davidia involucrata*, the 'handkerchief tree'.

Next, we make our way southwest to the town of Agliè. After lunching together at a local restaurant, we shall visit the grand Castello Ducale di Agliè, which was built around a medieval castle owned by the San Martino family. In the 17th century, Count Filippo di San Martino di Agliè had the fortress transformed, according to the design of Amadeo Castellamonte, into the imposing residence we see today. It was further altered in the 18th century by the ruling Savoy family, who purchased it in 1764. The castle has more than 300 rooms, which contain a legacy of furniture, paintings, and variety of precious, eclectic collections. The garden has also undergone several phases of redesign. Under the Savoy, a grand 18th-century formal garden was laid out and a monumental Baroque fountain constructed. Subsequently, in 1830-40, Xavier Kurten abandoned formality and symmetry for a romantic design incorporating woods, winding paths, and bridges across canals. We shall take a tour of this fascinating castle and its garden. We then continue southward to vibrant Turin, Italy's first capital city after unification and home to the House of Savoy. (Overnight Turin) BL

Day 6: Saturday 5 May, Turin

- Orientation walk of Turin, including guided visits to the Palazzo Reale, Cathedral & Palazzo Madama
- Afternoon and evening at leisure

This morning we will enjoy a guided orientation walk of the city's centre with a local guide. Our walk will include a visit to Turin's Palazzo Reale (Royal Palace), seat of the House of Savoy (1646-1859) and of Vittorio Emanuele II, King of Italy (1860-1865). This grand palace, a major essay in Italian Baroque and Rococo, has sumptuous decorations and furniture from all periods. We will also visit Turin's Palazzo Madama, a medieval castle behind a Baroque façade, with a major art collection that includes Antonello da Messina's *Portrait of a Man*. This afternoon and evening we will be at leisure to enjoy Turin. (Overnight Turin) B

#### Day 7: Sunday 6 May, Turin – Moncalieri – Turin

- Pinacoteca Giovanni e Marella Agnelli
- Villa Silvio Pellico – including lunch (exclusive private visit)

Today we visit the Pinacoteca Giovanni e Marella Agnelli. Giovanni Agnelli was in 1899 one of the original founders of what became the Fiat motor company. The Agnelli family, 'the Kennedys of Italy', are also known for their ownership of Ferrari since 1969 and as majority owners of the Juventus Football Club. Donna Marella Agnelli, of the Italian noble house of Caracciolo, is a renowned style icon, garden designer, author and photographer, as well as art collector. The Pinacoteca, opened in 2002, displays 25 masterpieces from Giovanni and Marella Agnelli's private art collection. We shall visit the gallery known as the 'Scrigno', or 'treasure chest', which houses twenty-three paintings and two sculptures, including works by Matisse, Balla, Severini, Modigliani, Tiepolo, Canaletto, Picasso, Renoir, Manet and Canova. The space itself is a work of art, having been designed by Renzo Piano inside Turin's historic industrial complex of Lingotto.

Villa Silvio Pellico is a fine Neo-Gothic mansion (1780) with a Russell Page garden, arguably one of his three masterpieces. Page had gained an understanding of the Italian and French formal tradition of gardening from Edith Wharton and Geoffrey Jellicoe. On an ill-kempt hillside in the 1950s he created a fine terraced garden on two axes divided by pools; Page was particularly sensitive to the use of water in gardens. Symmetrical hedges create a series of 'rooms' of different designs, using diverse vegetation and ground patterns, as well as sculptures. The present owner, Raimonda Lanza di Trabia, daughter of the last Prince of Trabia (Sicily), and her husband Emanuele Gamna, will host us for lunch. (Overnight Turin) BL

#### Day 8: Monday 7 May, Turin – Pinerolo – Revello – Moncalieri – Turin

- Il Torrione: Guided tour of the Park with Dr Paola Gullino
- Paolo Pejrone hosts a visit to Bramafam, his private experimental garden (exclusive private visit)
- Private Garden of Silvana and Alberto Peyrani (exclusive private visit)

This morning we visit the park of Il Torrione, one of the largest in Piedmont. References to the site date to the early modern period; a drawing dated 1558 shows a castle complex surrounded by square walls with cylindrical towers at the corners. The manor house was built in the neoclassical style and has been owned by the Doria family since the nineteenth century. The park was designed by an architect of the royal Savoy family, Xavier Kurten, and is planted with specimens of liriiodendron, ginkgo, pine and fir trees, cedars, cypresses, libocedars, criptomeries, magnolia and other valuable botanical species. It also has a wonderful collection of hydrangeas. Today we shall visit the park with garden expert, Dr Paola Gullino, of the University of Turin. Following our tour, we enjoy a buffet lunch of local specialities.

We are particularly privileged today to meet Paolo Pejrone, currently Italy's leading garden designer.



Architetto Pejrone will host us on a visit to his own, very private garden, designed not so much for its aesthetics, but rather as a laboratory in which the master is constantly experimenting with new plantings. Set on a steep escarpment near a ruined medieval rampart from which 'Bramafam' takes its name, the garden and its owner's discussions with you will give precious, unique insights into his ideas and practice.

We continue to Moncalieri to visit the private garden designed by Paolo Pejrone for Silvana and Alberto Peyrani. Pejrone surrounded their villa with extensive new gardens, including decorative orchards and a fine potager. We are very grateful that the Peyranis have graciously consented to allow us to explore their private domain. (Overnight Turin) BL

## Lucca - 2 nights

Day 9: Tuesday 8 May, Turin – Santa Margherita Ligure – La Cervara – Lucca

- Abbey of San Girolamo al Monte di Portofino (La Cervara)
- Group Dinner at Gli Orti di Via Elisa Restaurant

We drive southeast along the grand Ligurian coast to the magnificent Abbey of San Girolamo al Monte di Portofino. Located in a strategic position atop a rocky headland that overlooks the Tigullio Gulf, it was founded as a Benedictine monastery in 1361. The monks' former vegetable garden was transformed into what is now the only monumental Italian formal garden in the Liguria region. It extends over two levels connected by arbors and steps. On the lower level, hedges of boxwood (*buxus sempervirens*) are trimmed into ornate stepped cones, an important example of topiary art. The hedges surround a 17th-century marble fountain in the form of a *putto*, whose underlying basin is tinged with pink water lilies in summer.

After visiting this grand garden, we continue to Lucca and check in to the Hotel Ilaria, which occupies the restored stables of the Villa Bottini inside the city walls. In the evening we dine together at Gli Orti di Via Elisa Restaurant located near the hotel. (Overnight Lucca) BD

Day 10: Wednesday 9 May, Lucca

- Orientation tour of Lucca incl. Cathedral of San Martino, San Michele, San Frediano and the Piazza del Mercato
- Palazzo Pfanner
- Afternoon at leisure
- *Italian Opera Evening* at the Church of San Giovanni

Lucca is one of the most beautiful of all Italian cities, with city walls graced by grand plantations of trees and one of the finest sets of Romanesque churches in Italy. We visit the Cathedral of St. Martin, with a lovely Jacopo della Quercia tomb. The Church of San Michele has a spectacular façade made up of complex blind galleries with capricious sculptures of beasts. It was built in the ancient forum of the city; Lucca's medieval street plan follows the original Roman plan. The oval Piazza del Mercato's medieval palaces were built into the structure of Lucca's Roman amphitheatre. San Frediano, meanwhile, has a distinctive façade mosaic and a unique baptismal font that was once a medieval fountain.

After lunch we visit the privately owned 17th-century Palazzo Pfanner, where parts of *Portrait of a Lady* were filmed (1996). The palace's owner, Dario Pfanner, will introduce his palace and its Baroque garden, a fine example of an urban garden that includes various statues of Olympian deities and a fountain pond. Its elegant lemon house (*limonaia*) inflects a space defined by boxwood and laurel hedges. Bushes of peonies and hortensias, roses and potted geraniums gain shade from yews, pines, magnolias and an old camellia.

Inside, the palace's *piano nobile* (main reception room) features Pietro Paolo Scorsini frescoes (c.1720).

The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. You may wish to walk a section of Lucca's 17th-century city walls, the best preserved in Italy. The Lucchesi planted trees atop these walls to form a promenade enlivened by small gardens and lawns. We attend an evening concert with a selection from Italian operas, including some by Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924), a native of Lucca, in the Church of San Giovanni. (Overnight Lucca) B

## Florence - 4 nights

Day 11: Thursday 10 May, Lucca – Camigliano – Capannori – San Piero a Sieve – Florence

- Villa Torrigiani, Camigliano
- Lunch at a Tuscan *osteria*
- Medici Castello del Trebbio, San Piero a Sieve

During the Renaissance, the wealthy merchant families of Tuscany built grand villas on the plains of Lucca. We visit 17th-century Villa Torrigiani, named after the camellia that was introduced to the gardens in the early 18th century. The garden's Baroque layout, attributed to André Le Nôtre, features symmetrical reflecting pools in front of the villa. Most outstanding is the secret garden (Giardino di Flora), with regular beds, topiary and pools. The garden features 19th-century trees, magnificent magnolias, cypresses and umbrella pines. The 18th-century avenue of cypresses leading to the villa from the village of Borgonuovo reflects the past grandeur of estates in this region.

We eat a traditional Tuscan lunch at nearby *osteria* before continuing our journey eastward toward Castello il Trebbio in San Piero a Sieve.

"Set on a hilltop in the Apennines north of Florence, a few kilometres west of San Piero a Sieve, Castello del Trebbio is one of the oldest villas built by the Medici, who came from the Mugello and chose their native region for their first villas. The head of the Medici clan, Giovanni di Bicci, owned the property from the late 14th century, and upon his death in 1428, the villa was inherited by Cosimo the Elder, who commissioned Michelozzo di Bartolomeo to rebuild the original castle.

Set in an excellent strategic position, dominating the Sieve Valley below and near a cross roads (Trebbio derives from the Latin *trivium*), the castle was surrounded by woods and a huge estate which bordered on the Cafaggiolo property. Although Vasari suggests otherwise, Trebbio was the first of the Mugello castles to be rebuilt by Michelozzo. Immediately after 1428, the building work began, incorporating the existing watchtower into a solid, compact defensive construction surrounded by a moat and drawbridge. The defensive role was necessary on account of the castle's position, however novel features were also introduced to satisfy the requirements of the patron.

The walled garden set on two terraces to the right is noteworthy as it was among the first of its kind to be designed for a villa. The upper terrace of the well-preserved garden, a veritable *hortus conclusus*, is decorated with a long pergola made up of a double row of columns and sandstone capitals in various styles (ionic and decorated with foliage motifs), which support a thick covering of vines. As can be seen in the lunette painted by Giusto Utens between 1599 and 1602, there was a second pergola (now lost) on the lower terrace, which retains the original layout of a vegetable garden with a pond, as well as planting designed by Michelozzo to satisfy not only defensive requirements, but also Cosimo's spiritual desire for a contemplative life." (*The Medici Villas: Complete Guide* by Isabella Lapi Ballerini & Mario Scalini).

In the late afternoon we arrive at our hotel in central Florence. (Overnight Florence) BL

#### Day 12: Friday 11 May, Florence – Fiesole – Florence

- Villa Medici in Fiesole
- Villa Le Balze
- Lunch at Fattoria di Maiano
- Villa di Maiano & Gardens

Unlike the grand villa gardens we have visited near Lucca, Florence and its vicinity have a number of small intimate urban gardens that we visit today. Many of these offer glimpses of the city, a counterpart to the spectacular views afforded by their grander Florentine counterparts. Such views offer a reminder that Florentine villas were seen as retreats from this metropolitan powerhouse. We make an early morning visit to elegant Fiesole in the hills overlooking Florence where Boccaccio set his *Decameron*, model for Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*; Boccaccio's protagonists told stories to while away their days in a Fiesole villa in which they had escaped from the plague ravaging Florence. Our first visit is to the garden of 16th-century Villa Medici in Fiesole. The garden, showing Cecil Pinsent's influence, is divided into three terraces with a *limonaia*. We shall then walk to neighbouring Villa Le Balze. Now a University of Georgetown study centre, it has a small formal garden and olive grove designed by Englishman Cecil Pinsent, with breathtaking views over Florence.

After some time to explore Fiesole's town centre at leisure, we transfer a short distance by coach to nearby Fattoria di Maiano, where we shall partake in a Tuscan lunch together. The Fattoria is the organic farm and olive grove of Villa di Maiano; here we shall indulge in local specialties such as cheeses, cold cuts, and *risotto al Chianti*.

The Villa di Maiano can count Queen Victoria among its guests; it has also provided the set for numerous films, including James Ivory's *A Room with a View* and Franco Zeffirelli's *Tea with Mussolini*. Among the villa's past owners are members of the famous Sforza and Pazzi families. However, it was wealthy Englishman Sir John Temple Leader who, after acquiring the property in 1844, renovated the villa, its gardens and the surrounding structures. We'll take a guided tour of the Villa, including a special visit to the first floor, and the Gardens. (Overnight Florence) BL

#### Day 13: Saturday 12 May, Florence

- Palazzo Corsini al Prato: Visits to the garden & palazzo; Refreshments
- Afternoon at leisure

This morning we visit the Giardino Corsini al Prato, a Florentine urban garden that illustrates the deep connection between nature, science and beauty in the Renaissance sensibility. Alessandro Acciaiuoli, a passionate 16th-century botanist, conceived the garden. Unable to finish his residence, he was forced to sell the property to Filippo di Lorenzo Corsini, who completed the Italian garden that remains unchanged to this day. Completely concealed from the street by the façade of the palazzo, this urban garden reveals pink and red rock roses, peonies, cherry trees and lavender along with elegant lemon urns and a central axis of solemn marble statues. After our tour of the gardens, Princess Giorgiana Corsini has kindly arranged for us a tour of her palace, followed by refreshments.

The afternoon is at leisure to explore Florence's many monuments and museums. (Overnight Florence) B

#### Day 14: Sunday 13 May, Florence

- Chapel of the Magi, Palazzo Medici Riccardi
- Museo di San Marco
- Afternoon at leisure

We depart from the hotel on foot and make a visit to the Palazzo Medici Riccardi to view Benozzo Gozzoli's frescoes of the *Procession of the Magi* in the small Magi Chapel. The sumptuous procession, which includes representations of Medici family members, is set in an ideal Tuscan landscape, which forms a fascinating comparison to the gardens we visit and countryside through which we drive.

Our next visit is to the monastery of San Marco, where Dominican monks contemplated the faith in images by Fra Angelico. Here, Cosimo de'Medici had his own cell for religious retreats, and commissioned Michelozzo to design the monks' cloister and the reading library for his manuscripts. The monastery holds numerous artistic treasures, including a *Last Supper* by Ghirlandaio in the refectory, and Fra Angelico's famous *Annunciation*.

We have another afternoon at leisure to enjoy Florence. (Overnight Florence) B

### Siena - 2 nights

Day 15: Monday 14 May, Florence – Settignano – Pianella – Siena

- Villa Gamberaia, Settignano
- Villa di Geggiano, Pianella – including buffet lunch (exclusive private visit)
- Optional evening excursion to Siena's town centre

We drive to Siena via two famous Tuscan villas. At Settignano we visit the Villa Gamberaia, with arguably the most famous of Florentine villa gardens. The Capponi family initiated the present garden in 1718. In 1896, Princess Ghika of Serbia created the main water parterres in front of the villa. The Marchi family has recently restored the garden. It features magnificent topiary, two fine grottoes, and wonderful old cypresses and pines. By special arrangement, we also tour the interiors of the villa which combines interesting architectural features of both an urban palazzo and suburban villa.

This afternoon we cross to the opposite side of the Sienese hills to the enchanting Villa Geggiano. Here, centuries-old cypress, potted lemons and clipped box hedges adorn a garden boasting a unique 'greenery theatre', late Baroque sculptures, a kitchen garden with topiary art and a semi-circular fishpond that forms an elegant terrace overlooking Siena. The villa itself contains original 13th-century furnishings. A small chapel faces the garden. Lunch features *crostini* with porcini mushrooms and truffles, pasta, various locally cured meats and Pecorino cheeses, followed by plum jam tart, all washed down with Villa di Geggiano Chianti Classico, mineral water and coffee.

In the afternoon we continue to our hotel on the outskirts of Siena, a villa surrounded by gardens. For those wishing to dine in Siena, there will be an optional evening excursion into the city centre. (Overnight Siena) BL

Day 16: Tuesday 15 May, Siena

- Orientation tour of Siena, including Palazzo Pubblico, Cathedral & Museum
- Afternoon at leisure

Siena is the quintessential medieval city. We explore Lorenzetti's fascinating paintings of *Good and Bad*

*Government* in the Civic Museum, located in the Palazzo Pubblico, and Duccio's masterpiece, the *Maestà*, in the Cathedral Museum. We examine Nicola and Giovanni Pisano's great pulpit in Siena Cathedral. We also visit medieval quarters (*contrade*) dominated by palaces still occupied by the families who built them. The *contrade* compete in the famous *palio* horse race twice a year. Protected by the Virgin Mary, Siena is a city of Trinitarian symbolism. Built on three ridges, it has three major sectors (*terzi*) that each elected three members of the city council, and interpreted its very architectural fabric in such symbolic terms. The afternoon is at leisure to explore Siena's many monuments and museums. (Overnight Siena) B

### Perugia - 1 night

Day 17: Wednesday 16 May, Siena – Castel del Piano Umbro – Perugia

- Private gardens of Villa Aureli, Castel del Piano Umbro: lunch and private tour
- Time at leisure in Perugia

This morning we depart Siena and head into Umbria. Count Sperello di Serego Alighieri, a descendent of Dante, will host us for a light lunch and show us his lovely Villa Aureli. Shaded by lime trees and oaks and decorated with many late antique vases containing citrus trees, the villa dates to the middle of the 18th century, when a Perugian nobleman and artist, Count Sperello Aureli, transformed a 16th-century tower into his country residence. Of particular note is the orangery, whose high roof is reminiscent of the hull of an upturned ship.

We continue to Perugia, where we have some time at leisure. We spend the night at the luxury Hotel Brufani Palace, located on a hilltop within Perugia's historic core. (Overnight Perugia) BL

### Viterbo - 1 night

Day 18: Thursday 17 May, Perugia – Bagnaia – Viterbo

- Orientation Walk, Perugia, including Cathedral & Fontana Maggiore
- Galleria Nazionale dell'Umbria, Perugia
- Villa Lante, Bagnaia

This morning we meet for a gentle introduction to Perugia's historic centre, including the Cathedral and Fontana Maggiore. We then view masterpieces, including works by Perugino, in the Galleria Nazionale dell'Umbria. After time for lunch at leisure, we depart Perugia for the great Villa Lante and its garden. Villa Lante is the consummate example of Italian Mannerist garden design. Giacomo Barozzi da Vignola's exemplary essay in fine scale and proportion centres on a fountain and water parterre. Vignola was influenced by the Vatican gardens, the Villa d'Este, Hadrian's marine theatre and the Boboli Gardens (Florence). Its theme, humanity's descent from the Golden Age, is based upon Ovid's *Metamorphosis*. Water flows from the Grotto of the Deluge at the summit down a stepped cascade and through a channel at the centre of a vast stone table used for banquets, inspired by Pliny's description of an imperial garden table using water to cool wine and fruit.

In the late afternoon, we drive a short distance to our hotel located in the countryside outside Viterbo. (Overnight Viterbo) BD

### Rome - 4 nights

Day 19: Friday 18 May, Viterbo – Calcata – Vignanello – Rome

- Gardens of Paolo Portoghesi, Calcata (exclusive private visit)

- Castello Ruspoli, Vignanello

This morning we visit the private garden of distinguished architect and scholar Paolo Portoghesi. The garden reinterprets Baroque elements and Borrominian forms, and fuses geometry with nature to produce a garden which is both spectacularly modern and at the same time, reverent toward the traditions upon which it draws.

Castello Ruspoli occupies the site of a mid-9th century Benedictine convent later converted to a military stronghold. Ortensia Baglioni transformed it into a villa, designed by the great architects Sangallo and Vignola, and succeeding generations created one of Italy's most beautiful parterres, composed of hedges of bay, laurel and box, which articulate a vast rectangular space. The Princess Ruspoli today maintains the gardens. (Overnight Rome) BL

Day 20: Saturday 19 May, Rome – Ninfa – Cisterna – Rome

- Giardini di Ninfa
- Private Gardens of Torrecchia Vecchia

We depart this morning at approximately 8.00am for the Giardini di Ninfa. The magnificent gardens of Ninfa, south of Rome, are some of the most remarkable in all of Italy. Today, their gates will open for a special private visit for our group. The town of Ninfa is but a memory of a once prosperous medieval commune owned by the Caetani family since the mid-13th century. In the early 20th century the family began to regenerate its ruins, taking advantage of a microclimate greened by rich spring water. Thousands of species were introduced from all over the world under the guidance of botanical experts. Lelia Caetani, the last of her ancient family, died in 1977 and bequeathed her property to the Foundation Caetani that maintains the wonderfully atmospheric gardens. Today plants weave themselves over ruined towers, ancient archways and churches, while ducks and swans glide on the castle's moat. Highlights include a walled garden, small orchard and diverse plantings in which roses, banana trees and maples thrive together in this unique and beautiful landscape.

Nearby, we enjoy a picnic lunch and visit the dreamy gardens of Torrecchia, one of Italy's most beautiful private gardens. Nestled against the crumbling ruins of a medieval village and castle, perched on a volcanic hilltop just south of Rome, they command spectacular views of the unspoilt 1500-acre estate. Owned by Carlo Caracciolo (the late owner of the Italian newspaper *L'Espresso*) and Violante Visconti, the gardens were originally designed by Lauro Marchetti, the current curator of the Giardini di Ninfa, and further developed by the English garden designer Dan Pearson and later by Stuart Barfoot. (Overnight Rome) BL

Day 21: Sunday 20 May, Rome – Tivoli – Rome

- Villa d'Este, Tivoli
- Group Lunch at Ristorante Sibilla, Tivoli
- Time at leisure in Rome

Set among the hanging cliffs of the Valle Gaudente, the Villa d'Este and its surrounding gardens and waterworks has undergone a series of innovative extensions in layout and decoration, including those of Bernini in the late 17th century. This UNESCO world heritage site boasts an impressive concentration of nymphaea, grottoes and fountains, including the famous hydraulic Organ Fountain that still operates. The Villa d'Este's use of water and music became the definitive model for Mannerist and Baroque gardens across Europe.

We remain in the town of Tivoli for lunch at Ristorante Sibilla, a famous restaurant specialising in regional dishes. Marble plaques on the walls list the members of royalty and other famous people who have come here to dine for more than 250 years. After lunch, we return to Rome to enjoy time at leisure. (Overnight Rome) BL

#### Day 22: Monday 21 May, Rome – Castel Giuliano – Palo Laziale – Rome

- Palazzo Patrizi, Castel Giuliano (exclusive private visit)
- Farewell Lunch at The Cesar Restaurant, La Posta Vecchia Hotel, home of the late J. Paul Getty

The estate of Castel Giuliano, surrounded by a beautiful century-old park, occupies the site of an Etruscan and Roman settlement at the foot of the Tolfa Mountains. The Patrizi family has owned it since 1546 and its present owners have restored its ancient buildings and park to their former splendour. On its wide, gently sloping turf terraces, pines, cluster oaks, and century-old Lebanon cedars tower above sweet-scented herbs and flower-laden bushes, contrasting unruly nature with human interventions. The park has numerous Etruscan tombs and ruins of Roman walls covered in ferns and lichen. Truly unique, it is one of Italy's most important private rose gardens; in May it hosts the famous 'Festival of the Roses'. Climbing roses soften the austere lines of the ancient castle walls, which are surrounded by combinations of shrubbery and foxglove, myrtle and pale blue ceanothus.

We finish our tour with a special dining experience at The Cesar restaurant. With a terrace overlooking the Mediterranean, The Cesar is the restaurant of luxury hotel La Posta Vecchia. The dishes, designed by renowned chef Antonio Magliulo, are traditional Italian style with a contemporary twist. They are prepared with fresh local ingredients, including produce from the property's organic garden. The opulent villa, which houses the hotel, is richly furnished, decorated with precious artwork and surrounded by manicured gardens. It was bought by J. Paul Getty in the 1960s and sumptuously restored. Built in the 17th century to house visitors to the neighbouring Odescalchi Castle, the villa remained in a state of disrepair for decades until Getty purchased it and restored it to its former glory. During excavations for a swimming pool, the foundations of an ancient Roman villa – said to be the weekend retreat of Julius Caesar – were discovered, and Getty spared no expense in preserving the remains. On the lower level of the villa is a museum in which the mosaic floors, walls, pottery and first-century artefacts are on display.

We say our farewells as we return to Rome. (Overnight Rome) BL

#### Day 23: Tuesday 22 May, Depart Rome

- Airport transfer for participants departing on the ASA 'designated' flight

The tour ends in Rome. Participants travelling on the ASA 'designated' flight will transfer to the airport to take their flight home to Australia. Alternatively, you may wish to extend your stay in Italy. Please contact ASA if you require further assistance. B

## Accommodation

### 23-day Cultural Garden Tour of Italy

All hotels are rated 3-, 4- or 5-star locally and are comfortable and conveniently situated. All rooms have en suite bathroom. Several hotels have swimming pools. Further information on hotels will be provided in the 'Tour Hotel List' given to tour members prior to their departure.

- Moltrasio (2 nights): 4-star Grand Hotel Imperiale – built in the late Art Nouveau style, overlooking Lake Como and surrounded by private gardens. [www.hotelimperialecomo.it](http://www.hotelimperialecomo.it)
- Stresa (2 nights): 4-star Hotel La Palma – located in the Stresa town centre close to many shops, restaurants, cafés. Hotel La Palma is situated directly across the road from the lake and has views over Lake Maggiore. [www.hlapalma.it](http://www.hlapalma.it)
- Turin (4 nights): 4-star Townhouse 70 Hotel – a modern boutique hotel located in the heart of the historic centre. [www.70.townhousehotels.com](http://www.70.townhousehotels.com)
- Lucca (2 nights): 4-star Hotel Ilaria – located within the walls of the old city, close to the cathedral. It is flanked by the centuries-old garden of the Villa Bottini – it occupies the villa's restored stables – and the medieval city gate, Porta San Gervasio. [www.hotelilaria.com](http://www.hotelilaria.com)
- Florence (4 nights): 4-star Grand Hotel Adriatico – a modern hotel located between the Santa Maria Novella Square and the Arno River and within easy walking distance of all major monuments & museums. [www.hoteladriatico.it](http://www.hoteladriatico.it)
- Siena (2 nights): 4-star Hotel Garden – housed in a villa perched on a hill with vineyards and olive groves overlooking Siena. It stands at the end of a park of ilex trees, flower beds and shrubs. [www.gardenhotel.it](http://www.gardenhotel.it)
- Perugia (1 night): 5-star Hotel Brufani Palace – located on a hilltop within the historical centre of Perugia and walking distance from the main historical sites. [www.brufanipalace.com](http://www.brufanipalace.com)
- Viterbo (1 night): 4-star Alla Corte delle Terme Exclusive Resort – a modern resort hotel located in the countryside near Viterbo. [www.allacortedelleterme.it](http://www.allacortedelleterme.it)
- Rome (4 nights): 3-star Albergo Santa Chiara – chosen for its location close to the Pantheon in the historic centre of Rome. [www.albergosantachiara.com](http://www.albergosantachiara.com)

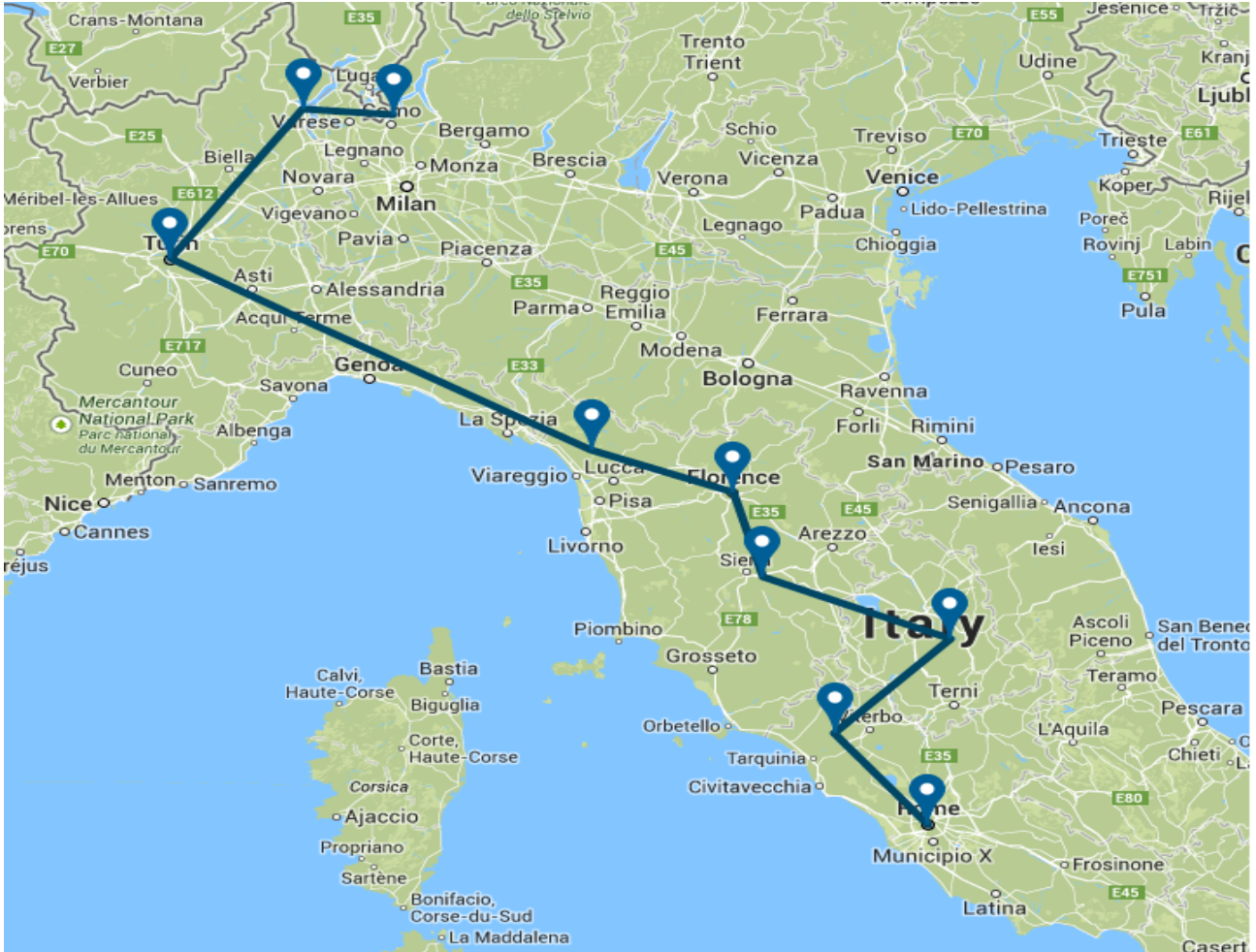
Note: *hotels are subject to change, in which case a hotel of similar standard will be provided.*

### Double (as Single) Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation in a double (or twin) room for single occupancy throughout the tour, except in Rome, where a Single Superior room (with French bed) will be provided. The number of rooms available for single occupancy is extremely limited. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.



## Tour Map



## Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD \$12,980.00 Land Content Only – Early-Bird Special: Book before 30 June 2017

AUD \$13,180.00 Land Content Only

AUD \$2,490.00 Double (as Single) Supplement

For competitive Economy, Business or First Class airfares and/or group airfares please contact ASA for further information.

### Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities in 3- and 4-star hotels (5-star in Perugia)
- Breakfast daily, lunches and evening meals indicated in the tour itinerary, where: B=breakfast, L=lunch & D=evening meal
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals may not have drinks included.
- Transportation by air-conditioned coach; ferry/boat excursions in the Lakes District
- Airport-hotel transfers if travelling on the ASA 'designated' flights
- Porterage of one piece of luggage per person at hotels (not at airports)
- Lecture and site-visit program
- Light refreshments as indicated in the itinerary
- Entrance fees
- Use of audio headsets during site visits
- Tips for the coach driver, local guides and restaurants for included meals.

### Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:

- Airfare: Australia-Milan, Rome-Australia
- Personal spending money
- Airport-hotel transfers if not travelling on the ASA 'designated' flights
- Luggage in excess of 20kg (44lbs)
- Travel insurance



## Physical Endurance & Practical Information

Physical Ratings 

The number of flags is a guide to the degree of difficulty of ASA tours relative to each other (not to those of other tour companies). It is neither absolute nor literal. One flag is given to the least taxing tours, seven to the most. Flags are allocated, above all, according to the amount of walking and standing each tour involves. Nevertheless, all ASA tours require that participants have a good degree of fitness enabling 2-3 hours walking or 1-1.5 hours standing still on any given site visit or excursion. Many sites are accessed by climbing slopes or steps and have uneven terrain.

This 23-day Cultural Garden Tour of Italy involves:

- Moderate walking and standing during site visits; walking tours may include steep slopes, flights of stairs, cobbled streets, visits to hill-top towns and uneven ground during garden visits.
- Moderate travel by air-conditioned coach.
- Visiting a range of towns and villages on foot, walks uphill from bus parks to historic town centres and other sites
- The use of audio headsets which amplify the voice of your guide (despite noisy surroundings). This technology also allows you to move freely during site visits without missing any information.
- 3- to 5-star hotels with eight hotel changes.
- You must be able to carry your own hand luggage. Hotel portage includes 1 piece of luggage per person.
- Excursions by ferry in the northern Italian Lakes District.

It is important to remember that ASA programs are group tours, and slow walkers affect everyone in the group. As the group must move at the speed of the slowest member, the amount of time spent at a site may be reduced if group members cannot maintain a moderate walking pace. ASA tours should not present any problem for active people who can manage day-to-day walking and stair-climbing. However, if you have any doubts about your ability to manage on a program, please ask your ASA travel consultant whether

this is a suitable tour for you.

**Please note:** it is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA's directions in relation to their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. For further information please refer to the ASA Reservation Application Form.

### Practical Information

Prior to departure, tour members will receive practical notes which include information on visa requirements, health, photography, weather, clothing and what to pack, custom regulations, bank hours, currency regulations, electrical appliances and food. The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade website has advice for travellers: [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au)

## Booking Conditions

### Make a Reservation

#### ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION FORM

Please complete the ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION and send it to Australians Studying Abroad together with your non-refundable deposit of AUD \$500.00 per person payable to Australians Studying Abroad.

### Passport Details

All participants must provide no later than **75 days** prior to the commencement of the program a photocopy of the front page of their current passport.

### Double (as Single) Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation in a double (or twin) room for single occupancy throughout the tour, except in Rome, where a Single Superior room (with French bed) will be provided. The number of rooms available for single occupancy is extremely limited. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.



# Reservation Application

TOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TOUR DATES \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete **one application, per person in block letters and sign**. Parental signature is required for participants under 18 years of age. Please mail this form with the appropriate deposit to: **P.O. Box 8285, ARMADALE, VICTORIA, 3143**. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation.

## Applicant Details (as in passport)

TITLE Mr  Mrs  Ms  Miss  Dr  Other \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MIDDLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SURNAME \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

TEL. (AH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. (BH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth / / \_\_\_\_\_ GENDER Male  Female

Passport Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date / / \_\_\_\_\_ Nationality \_\_\_\_\_

Colour copy of my current valid passport enclosed  I'm renewing my passport  ASA has a colour copy of my current passport

## Travel Plans

I wish ASA to book my airfare, please contact me to discuss my options.  Business Class  Economy Class

I plan to leave Australia before the tour commences. Planned departure date / / \_\_\_\_\_

I will be arranging my airfare independently and taking the Land Content Only option.

Frequent Flyer \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Airline \_\_\_\_\_ Airline Seat preference \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ (please note request only)

## Tour Accommodation (rooming preferences)

I/we would like:  a twin-bedded room  a double-bedded room  a room for sole occupancy

I am travelling:  on my own  with a friend/family member Travel Companion \_\_\_\_\_

## Meals

I do not have any specific dietary requests

Please **X** the box if you **CAN NOT** eat any of the following:

fish  poultry  red meat  dairy products

eggs  pork  nuts

Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information

Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Correspondence

Your preferred method of correspondence  Postal Mail  Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Emergency Contact Details

Note: this person **MUST** be available by telephone and be present in Australia for the duration of your tour with ASA

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Traveller \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

TEL. (AH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. (BH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL address \_\_\_\_\_

The purpose of seeking this information is to assist ASA to determine, where necessary, whether ASA is able to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs and whether your health and safety (or that of your fellow travellers) is likely to be compromised given your choice of tour. It will also assist you and ASA if you fall ill or have an accident whilst travelling.

- ASA reserves the right to decline your Reservation Application if this Medical Information section is not completed properly and may reject or cancel your reservation, or terminate your participation on any tour, if ASA subsequently learns that you have failed to make full and proper disclosure.
- ASA is committed to protecting the privacy of your personal information. ASA's privacy policy is available for viewing at [www.asatours.com.au](http://www.asatours.com.au)
- If ASA has any concerns about the information you have provided, it will contact you to request clarification before considering your Application.
- ASA requires you to consider carefully your limitations in light of ASA's Physical Endurance Star Rating System in ASA's Brochure and Itinerary when choosing your tour.
- If you are not likely to satisfy ASA's Participation Criteria (see below), ASA, in its sole discretion, may reject your Reservation Application.
- It is a condition of your tour that you agree to accept the directions of ASA's Tour Leaders in relation to your suitability to participate in activities planned on tour.
- ASA reserves the right to cancel your participation on a tour if your behaviour is in ASA's opinion causing undue distress or damage to any person or their property.
- If your participation is discontinued during a tour, ASA will assist by arranging your onward travel (if required) at your own cost, but you will not be refunded for forfeited parts of the tour.
- ASA tour groups are not accompanied by a medical practitioner. ASA recommends that you see your doctor for advice about your specific needs while overseas. You may also wish to contact a travel and vaccination clinic for advice. [www.traveldoctor.com.au](http://www.traveldoctor.com.au) tel: 1300 658 444; [www.travelvax.com.au](http://www.travelvax.com.au) tel: 1300 360 164.
- Travel insurers require you to declare all existing medical conditions.
- Please carry a complete list of medications with you during the ASA tour. Include **generic names** of each medication (consult your local pharmacy for information).

Please mark **X** in the YES or NO box to every question below and provide details where necessary:

## Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour. The responsibility of the Tour Leader is to ensure that the larger group enjoys a relaxing and informative journey, and he or she cannot be relied upon to provide ongoing individual assistance to any one guest.

- |   | YES                   | NO                    |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Can you walk and stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions?           | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. Can you walk unassisted on and over uneven surfaces?   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. Can you climb at least 3 flights of stairs and/or walk up and down steep slopes unassisted?        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. Can you walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15 - 20 minutes unassisted?               | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. Can you organise, manage and carry your own luggage?   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6. Can you follow and remember tour instructions and meet punctually at designated times and places?  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 7. Can you administer your own medication?  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8. Do you have impaired vision or hearing which may impact your capacity to participate on this tour? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

## Mobility and Fitness

As many of ASA's international sites do not provide access to wheelchairs or similar mobility aids, we regret that ASA tours are not suitable for people who require the use of a walking frame, wheeled walker, wheelchair or motorised scooter.

1. Do you suffer from any medical conditions that may compromise your mobility and/or fitness to participate on this program?  YES  NO  
 If yes, please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Allergies and/or Food Intolerances

ASA will make reasonable endeavours to organise meals to suit you, provided that you give ASA adequate notice of your specific dietary requirements or allergies. You may be required to research dietary alternatives, as not all destinations may be able to offer suitable food substitutes.

1. Do you have any food allergies or intolerances?  YES  NO  
 If yes, please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Have you ever had an anaphylactic reaction to anything?  YES  NO  
 If yes, please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you carry an epipen?  YES  NO

3. Do you have any other allergies or reactions to anything, including medical drugs?  YES  NO  
 If yes, please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

## Existing Medical Conditions

You alone are responsible for managing any existing medical conditions, your medication and any medical equipment that you may need when on your tour. Please plan for contingencies and take extra medication, dietary supplements and/or fully charged batteries for medical equipment if your health and safety depends on these. You should take into consideration that power sources at some destinations may be unavailable, inadequate, inconvenient or unreliable.

1. Have you any significant medical conditions that may impact your capacity to complete this tour?  YES  NO  
 If yes, please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you require some form of powered medical aid, such as a CPAP machine?  YES  NO

These machines may not be operable on certain international flights, modes of transport, in remote or other areas with inadequate or unreliable power sources without a fully charged independent long life battery or batteries.

**Diabetics:** You may be travelling and sightseeing for many hours at a time. Insulin dependent diabetics must carry extra supplies of insulin (as this medication cannot be obtained in some destinations), regulators, applicators, storage and refrigeration equipment, as well as any necessary supplements. Accommodation may not provide refrigerators in rooms.

3. Are you diabetic?  YES  NO

Are you insulin dependent?  YES  NO

4. Do you suffer from travel sickness?  YES  NO  
 Remember to use an appropriate medication while on tour.

## Declaration

I declare that: I have read and understood the ASA Tour Itinerary, Reservation Application and Booking Conditions. I am aware of ASA's terms as relating to refunds, cancellations, responsibility and liability. I understand that ASA relies upon this declaration when considering this Application. I accept that there are inherent dangers and risks that may occur during any tour. I have made full and complete disclosure and have not knowingly withheld any medical information about myself from ASA. I have completed this Reservation Application honestly and accurately. I warrant that I am able to participate independently in all activities described by ASA in the itinerary without assistance from any person.

I will advise ASA in writing if any aspect of my fitness and or health conditions change materially at any time before my departure date. I understand and accept that the itinerary, accommodation and lecturers scheduled for this tour may change.

I agree and consent that ASA may give my personal information in this Reservation Application to tour service providers and relevant authorities as required by law, but for the purpose of making bookings with and engaging services provided for the tour. I understand that if I do not consent to the use of my personal information for this purpose, ASA will decline my Reservation Application.

In consideration of ASA's acceptance of my Reservation Application, I irrevocably release and indemnify ASA from all claims that I, or any other party, may have against ASA its employees, invitees, agents and contractors, however arising in respect of any loss, damage, injury, death or expense incurred in the course of travelling to, on and from any tour.

I understand and acknowledge that this Release and Indemnity applies with respect to:

1. Every general risk to which I or my personal belongings may be exposed in the course of travelling to, on or from any ASA tour
2. Every special risk, in particular medical risks, to which I may be exposed in the course of travelling to, on or from any ASA tour arising from, including, but not limited to:
  - a. intermittent power cycles and/or the temporary or permanent loss of power (beware CPAP or any other medical machine users);
  - b. dietary, food or other allergies (ASA cannot guarantee that traces of items to which you are allergic are not present in food or drink you are served, medication you are administered or other substances with which you may come into contact);
  - c. any event or situation that may compromise the administration of necessary medication or my health, safety and wellbeing generally.
3. All claims arising as a result of my or ASA's cancellation or termination of my continued participation on a tour for whatever reason (refund conditions in ASA's Booking Conditions excepted).

## Limitation of Liability

ASA is not a carrier, event or tourist attraction host, accommodation or dining service provider. All bookings made and tickets or coupons issued by ASA for transport, event, accommodation, dining and the like are issued as an agent for various service providers and are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by each service provider. ASA is not responsible for their products or services. If a service provider does not deliver the product or service for which you have contracted, your remedy lies with the service provider, not ASA.

ASA will not be liable for any claim (eg. sickness, injury, death, damage or loss) arising from any change, delay, detention, breakdown, cancellation, failure, accident, act, omission or negligence of any such service provider however caused (contingencies). You must take out adequate travel insurance against such contingencies.

ASA's liability in respect of any tour will be limited to the refund of amounts received from you less all non-refundable costs and charges and the costs of any substituted event or alternate services provided. The terms and conditions of the relevant service provider from time to time comprise the sole agreement between you and that service provider.

ASA reserves the sole discretion to cancel any tour or to modify itineraries in any way it considers appropriate. Tour costs may be revised, subject to unexpected price increases or exchange rate fluctuations.

## Booking Conditions

### DEPOSITS

A deposit of \$500.00 AUD per person is required to reserve a place on an ASA tour.

### CANCELLATION FEES

If you decide to cancel your booking the following charges apply:

More than 75 days before departure: \$500\*  
75-46 days prior 25% of total amount due  
45-31 days prior 50% of total amount due  
30-15 days prior 75% of total amount due  
14-0 days prior 100% of total amount due

*\*This amount may be **credited** to another ASA tour departing within 12 months of the original tour you booked. We regret, in this case early-bird discounts will not apply.*

**We take the day on which you cancel as being that on which we receive written confirmation of cancellation.**

### UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE TOUR

We regret that refunds will not be given for any unused portions of the tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation, flights or transfers.

### WILL THE TOUR PRICE OR ITINERARY CHANGE?

If the number of participants on a tour is significantly less than budgeted, or if there is a significant change in exchange rates ASA reserves the right to amend the advertised price. We shall, however, do all in our power to maintain the published price. If an ASA tour is forced to cancel you will get a full refund of all tour monies paid. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of ASA make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make amendments to daily itineraries. We will inform you of any changes in due course.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

ASA requires all participants to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. A copy of your travel insurance certificate and the **reverse charge** emergency contact phone number must be received by ASA no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the tour.

### FINAL PAYMENT

The balance of the tour price will be due 75 days prior to the tour commencement date.

## PLEASE READ THE ABOVE CAREFULLY, PRINT AND SIGN BELOW

I accept the conditions on this booking form  I have read the information about the physical requirements of the tour in the detailed itinerary and confirm that I am able to meet these requirements

Applicant's Signature

Print Full Name

Dated

## Tour / Course Name

Name of Traveller 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Traveller 2 \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a payment to the value of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (including CC or bank fee if applicable) for this tour

The above amount is payable for:

- Intention to Travel     Tour Deposit  
 Balance of Payment     Upgrade from Intention to Travel to a Deposit  
 Travel Insurance     Other (eg. Airfares, Accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

## International Payments

Welcome to our international travellers! If you are making a payment and do not have an Australian bank account/credit card, we can only accept payment as follows:

- via credit card with the applicable fee - the credit card company/bank will set the exchange rate
- via bank transfer; please give your surname and tour code (eg. Smith 21705) as a reference and ask your bank to allow for all charges.

Bank cheques or personal cheques will not be accepted.

### By Cheque (accept Australian cheques only)

Please make cheques payable to *Australians Studying Abroad*

### Direct Deposit or Internet Banking

You will need to:

1. Provide your bank with ASA's bank details (see below) and the amount you wish to transfer OR make a direct deposit through any ANZ branch
2. Include any fees levied by the banks
3. Provide a reference number (Mobile or last name recommended).
4. Complete section below, including confirmation no. (given when transaction completed).

### Australians Studying Abroad bank details

**Bank** ANZ  
**Branch** 420 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic  
**Swift Code** ANZBAU3M  
**BSB** 013-423  
**Account No** 3472-32759

Bank confirmation No. \_\_\_\_\_

Reference used: Mobile or last name recommended  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Date Money Transferred  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### Credit Card Payment

Credit card fees apply: Mastercard & Visa 2%  
 American Express 2%

Please debit my:  Mastercard  Visa  American Express

I authorise ASA to debit my credit card for the amount due plus the applicable fee as above

Credit Card Number  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code (CVC) \_\_\_\_\_

Bank the Card is linked to (eg. NAB or ANZ)  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Name  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Billing Address  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode  
 \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Email  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Signature  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## AUSTRALIANS STUDYING ABROAD

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